

PRESIDENT: Will the Legislature please come to order.
LR 152. Senator Frank Lewis.

CLERK: Read LR 152.

PRESIDENT: I can't tell one light from the other. There are many, many lights on. It is traditional to recognize Senator F. Lewis. Is there a point of order that someone else insists on making before I recognize Senator F. Lewis. Just a second, I'm addressing the lights that are on. All right, Chair recognizes Senator F. Lewis.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. President, since there are three co-introducers of the Resolution, the original Resolution, I would ask that opening remarks be presented by Senator Venditte and by Senator Labedz and I will close.

PRESIDENT: Senator Venditte.

SENATOR VENDITTE: Thank you Mr. President, and members of the Legislature. I will be very brief in my opening remarks and I want to be as candid as I possibly can regarding LR 152. As we all well realize there are four basic purposes to Legislative Resolution 152. In my opinion, I think that the first purpose is to confirm Nebraska's regard for every innocent human life. Second, yes, secondly it is a chance to give the voters of this state an opportunity in an election year to see whether you stand against abortion on demand. The third purpose of course is to urge Congress to pass a human life amendment. Fourthly, it is to remind Congress that if they will not pass a human life amendment then the people certainly will. A call for a Constitutional Convention is not something unheard of in this state or in this Chamber, Senator Koch and Senator Chambers. As a matter of fact in 1965 such a call was passed by the Nebraska Unicameral on the subject of apportionment. Of course in 1965, Senator Barnett, the Nebraska Senators had enough trust in the American people that they would not destroy the American Constitutional fabric in the process. So even though there were some questions as to how a Constitutional Convention would proceed, the Nebraska Senator's at that time felt that fears of a run-away convention were irrational because they had no foundation in reason, logic, or experience. In addition, the Nebraska Unicameral had passed eight, and I repeat eight other calls for a Constitutional Convention in its long history. In each case they trusted the American people enough that they did not give in to the irrational fears of a run-away convention. Now there comes before us LR 152, a call for a limited Constitutional Convention that would restore to the unborn the protection of the law currently denied them. None of the previous nine convention calls coming from this Unicameral have dealt with an issue of such magnitude as this current Resolution, it is a matter of life or death to a whole class of innocent Americans, the unborn. Senator DeCamp none of the nine previous convention calls let the irrational fears of a run-away convention hold sway and they were all about lesser issues. Remember one thing, Senator Nichol, a convention can not amend the Constitution. It can only propose amendments and nothing more. Any convention proposal must go to the country for a decision to ratify or not. We all know that it takes 38 states to ratify. Lets face it, it is the anti-life lobby. The pro-abortion lobby that is throwing up the objections of a run-away convention and such like.